

Military Training

BY JENNIFER WALLACE



When his daughter was born August 4, 1982, Ricky Felts was the first one to hold her, and as the first to have that privilege, the proud father insisted on naming her too—Rikki. Twenty-two years later it's appropriate that she's named after her father; after all she's following in his footsteps. By the time this magazine is published, the senior cadet will have graduated and will be embarking on a career in the Marine Corps.

Why does a young woman just beginning her career choose to go into the Marine Corps?

"The bearing and character of the Marine Corps is just something I wanted to be a part of," says Felts.

In high school, Felts was in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). She applied to The Citadel because she wanted a challenge.

"I've always enjoyed the atmosphere and camaraderie of being with my ROTC buddies," she insists.

As a senior at the military college, Felts has served as the executive officer of Romeo Company.

"I loved it because I got to lead parades," she says bashfully.

With graduation just a few days away, she learns that she has completed the semester with a perfect 4.0.

"I was really stressed out about it. It's such a cool way to finish my last semester. When I do something, I like to learn from it, and if I'm not succeeding, I try that much harder."

Trying harder is likely what garnered Felts the respect and friendship of her classmates.

